

## PART V

## CROPS

Major Crops

Crops in Walla Walla County are grown commercially on both irrigated and dry land. According to the Census of Agriculture, harvested cropland in Walla Walla County amounted to 279,538 acres in 1959. An overwhelming proportion of the cropland is devoted to small grains, principally winter wheat and barley under dryland farming. Other important crops are vegetables and hay of which significant amounts are grown on irrigated lands.

In terms of individual crops in 1962, wheat lead all others in the county with 158,200 acres. The second ranking crop in terms of acreage was barley with 64,000 acres. In third place was green peas for processing harvested from 24,000 acres in 1962. Other important Walla Walla County crops included alfalfa for both hay and seed, rye, sugar beets and dry field and seed peas.

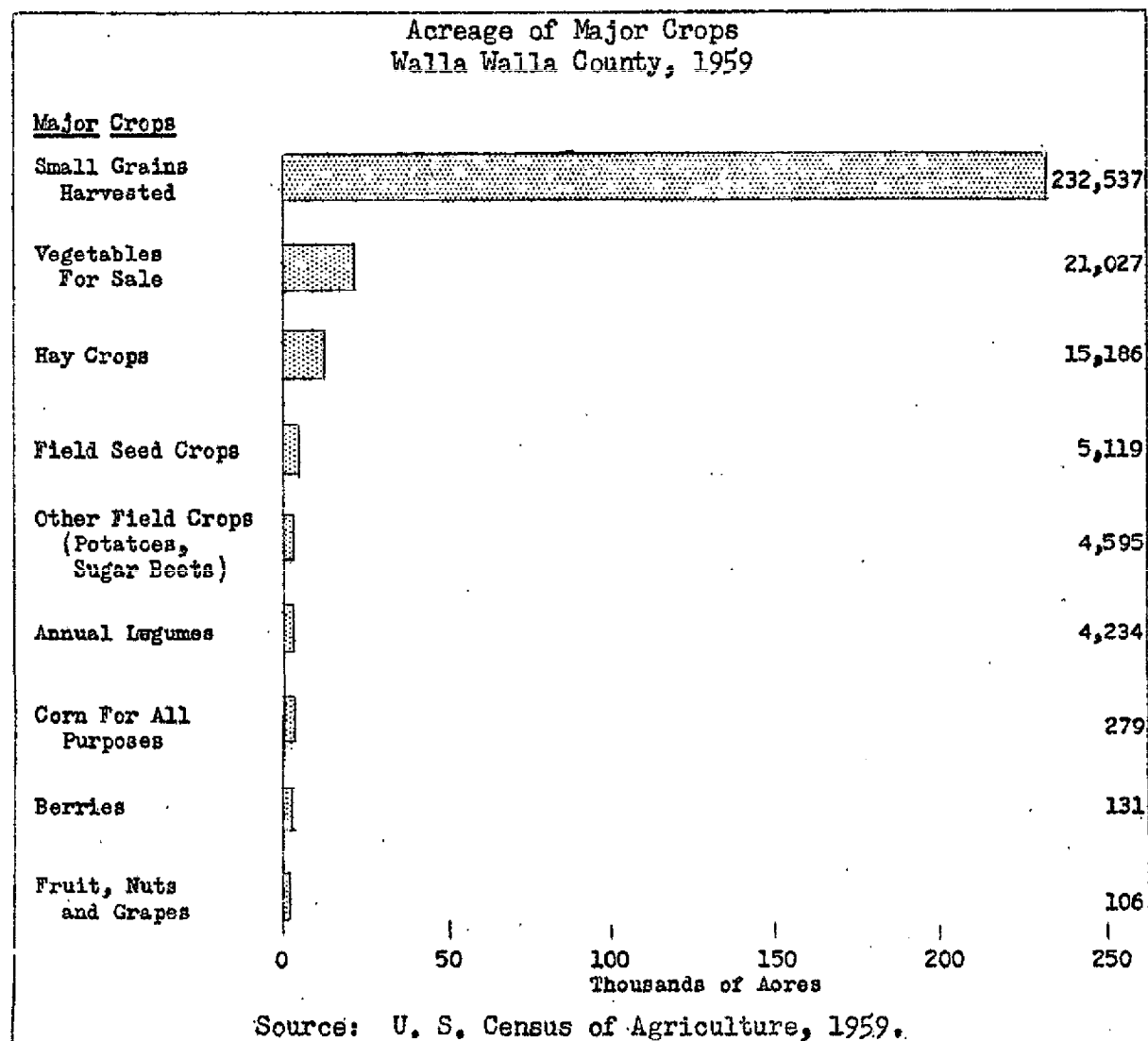


Figure 12. Acreage Harvested of Major Crops, Walla Walla County, 1959.

### Crop Trends

A number of changes are apparent in the emphasis Walla Walla County farmers have given to leading crops. These show the influence of market outlets and improved facilities for the distribution and storage of farm products. They also reflect technological advances in agriculture. New food processing methods have affected the acreages of various crops. Indeed, changes of crop patterns have resulted from the farmer's own initiative in experimentation with different crops and types of farming.

Walla Walla County agriculture through specialization and intensification has become increasingly more valuable to the regional economy. Aside from grain and hay crops, the county has also become prominent in vegetables, field seed crops and sugar beets in recent years.

### Small Grains: Wheat, Barley, Oats and Rye

Pioneer farmers early discovered that the soils, terrain and climate of eastern Washington were ideal for growing grains. Soils such as those of the Palouse Hills not only are fertile but are highly retentive of moisture, an important factor in dryland type farming. Walla Walla County grain farmers have taken full advantage of the area's rich resources of soils and climatic conditions. In 1962, about 226,400 acres were devoted to small grain crops in Walla Walla County. This represented approximately 28 percent of the total county land area.

#### Wheat

Wheat is the major crop in Walla Walla County both in terms of acreage and value. Since the pioneer period, wheat has been the principal crop of the area. Most of the wheat in the county is found on Eureka Flats and on the central and western plains. In recent years, Walla Walla County has ranked fourth in the state in wheat acreage and production. Nationally, it ranked fifty-fifth in acreage but sixth in quantity harvested in 1959. In 1962, 158,200 acres of county land were devoted to wheat which produced 7,607,800 bushels.

Most of the wheat grown in the county has been winter wheat. Winter wheat has been preferred over spring wheat because of higher yields and because moisture conditions favor fall-seeded grain. A substantial acreage of spring wheat generally is on land first seeded to winter wheat. Fields of winter wheat that have been damaged by winterkill, erosion or other climatic conditions are generally reseeded to spring wheat.

Wheat acreage increased almost steadily between 1939 and 1952 from 169,000 acres to a high of 276,000 acres. A downward trend in acreage has occurred since 1954 when the Federal Wheat Acreage Allotment program was initiated. Winter wheat dropped from a high of 253,000 acres in 1952 to 146,200 acres in 1962. Spring wheat reached a high of 79,000 acres in 1949. A drastic drop in acreage occurred between 1953 and 1954 from 55,500 to 7,300 acres. After 1954, spring wheat fluctuated between 8,200 and 1,900 acres, reaching 12,000 acres in 1962.

According to the Census of Agriculture, a total of 437 farms reported growing winter wheat in Walla Walla County in 1959. Nearly 59 percent of these farms harvested more than 100 acres of winter wheat. In the same year, spring wheat was reported grown by 112 farms, of which only 16 harvested more than 100 acres.

Table 15. Wheat and Barley: Acreage, Yield and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1949-1962

Year	All Wheat			Barley		
	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Acreage (acres)	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	239,000	26.2	6,255,500	4,900	34.5	169,000
1950	222,000	27.3	6,068,800	20,300	37.0	751,000
1951	245,000	31.5	7,713,500	3,800	36.0	136,800
1952	276,000	30.3	8,372,000	2,700	35.0	94,600
1953	259,500	32.7	8,481,000	2,900	38.0	110,300
1954	202,300	38.2	7,726,500	56,000	40.0	2,240,000
1955	174,100	32.9	5,731,800	68,000	26.5	1,802,000
1956	175,600	39.9	7,008,800	60,100	38.5	2,311,700
1957	174,700	43.9	7,667,600	59,000	45.2	2,664,000
1958	176,600	38.8	6,844,000	60,500	36.8	2,229,000
1959	176,200	47.5	8,367,400	63,000	49.0	2,898,000
1960	180,500	41.6	7,510,800	66,000	49.2	3,247,200
1961	177,300	25.9	4,593,000	69,000	48.0	3,309,000
1962	158,200	48.1	7,607,800	64,000	55.5	3,552,000

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 16. Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat  
Walla Walla County, 1949-1962

Year	Winter Wheat			Spring Wheat		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	160,000	27.0	4,320,000	79,000	24.5	1,935,500
1950	187,000	27.4	5,123,800	35,000	27.0	945,000
1951	193,000	33.5	6,465,500	52,000	24.0	1,248,000
1952	253,000	31.0	7,843,000	23,000	23.0	529,000
1953	204,000	34.5	7,038,000	55,500	26.0	1,443,000
1954	195,000	38.5	7,507,500	7,300	30.0	219,000
1955	171,400	33.0	5,656,200	2,700	28.0	75,600
1956	173,700	40.0	6,948,000	1,900	32.0	60,800
1957	171,500	44.0	7,546,000	3,200	38.0	121,600
1958	173,500	39.0	6,766,500	3,100	25.0	77,500
1959	168,000	48.0	8,064,000	8,200	37.0	303,400
1960	175,300	42.0	7,362,600	5,200	28.5	148,200
1961	174,900	26.0	4,547,400	2,400	19.0	45,600
1962	146,200	49.0	7,163,800	12,000	37.0	444,000

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

According to the Census of Agriculture, a total of 437 farms reported growing winter wheat in Walla Walla County in 1959. Nearly 59 percent of these farms harvested more than 100 acres of winter. In the same year, spring wheat was reported grown by 112 farms, of which only 16 harvested more than 100 acres.

Walla Walla County farmers have experimented with several varieties of wheat in order to obtain greater yields. In 1962, Brevor was the leading variety grown in the county representing 68 percent of the total production. Omar was second with 16.6 percent of the quantity harvested during the year.

Table 17. Varieties of Wheat Grown  
in Walla Walla County, 1962

Classes and Varieties of Wheat	Production (Bushels)	Percent of Total Crop
<u>Common White Wheats</u>		
Brevor	5,182,000	68.1
Burt	372,700	4.9
Federation	277,100	3.7
Requa	147,700	1.9
Gaines	132,600	1.7
Idaed	94,500	1.2
Marfed	72,400	1.0
Golden	7,000	0.1
<u>White Club Wheats</u>		
Omar	1,258,000	16.6
<u>Hard Red Winter Wheats</u>		
Turkey & Rio	56,200	0.7
Itana	7,000	0.1
Warrior	600	Tr.
Total all classes and varieties	7,607,800	100.0

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

### Barley

In recent years barley has been the second ranking crop in the county in terms of acreage. According to the Census of Agriculture, Walla Walla County ranked 54th among all United States counties in barley acreage and 28th in quantity harvested in 1959. Since 1954 farmers have increased their acreages of barley on lands taken out of wheat because of the Federal Wheat Acreage Allotment program. Barley in Walla Walla County jumped from 2,900 acres in 1953 to 56,000 acres in 1954. Since 1954 the acreage has ranged between 59,000 to 69,000 acres. Yields have varied from a low of 26.5 bushels per acre in 1955 to a high of 55.5 bushels per acre in 1962. In 1962, 3,552,000 bushels of barley were harvested from 64,000 acres in the county. Walla Walla County ranked fourth in the state in barley acreage and third in production in 1962. The distribution pattern of barley follows closely that of wheat, namely the dryland areas of the county.

### Oats and Rye

Oats are a minor crop in Walla Walla County. It is used mainly as feed on the farm where grown. Oats reached a high of 4,400 harvested acres in 1956. Since then, the acreage has ranged between 2,000 and 3,000 annually. Some land formerly in wheat was put into oats. Yields have varied from 30 bushels per acre in 1958

to almost twice that figure in 1962. In 1962, 171,100 bushels were harvested from 2,900 acres. According to the Census of Agriculture, 53 Walla Walla County farms reported growing oats in 1959. Most of the oats are grown on the dryland farm areas of the county.

Rye also is a minor commercial crop in Walla Walla County. It is grown mainly as a cash-grain crop rather than as feed. As with barley and oats, some rye has recently been grown on land formerly in wheat. The county's rye acreage has dropped since the high of 6,300 in 1959 to 1,300 in 1962. Yields have improved in recent years, ranging between 22 to 33 bushels per acre compared with around 10 bushels per acre prior to 1955. Census of Agriculture data indicate 339 farms grew rye in 1959, the majority of which were scattered throughout the "wheat lands" of the county.

Table 18. Oats and Rye: Acreage, Yield and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1949-1962

Year	Oats			Rye		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)	Harvested Acres	Yield (bushels per acre)	Production (bushels)
1949	1,780	39.0	69,420	10	10.0	100
1950	2,300	50.0	115,000	40	13.5	540
1951	1,900	41.0	77,900	110	18.5	2,030
1952	1,800	40.5	72,900	550	10.0	5,500
1953	1,840	37.0	68,100	700	23.0	16,100
1954	2,850	46.5	132,500	1,580	18.0	28,400
1955	4,200	40.0	168,000	1,750	9.0	15,700
1956	4,100	60.5	266,200	580	30.0	17,400
1957	2,000	58.0	116,000	4,700	31.5	148,050
1958	2,900	30.5	88,400	4,600	17.5	80,500
1959	2,400	44.5	106,800	6,300	25.0	157,500
1960	2,700	57.0	153,900	4,400	32.0	140,800
1961	3,000	44.0	132,000	1,400	22.0	30,800
1962	2,900	59.0	171,100	1,300	33.0	29,900

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

### Vegetables

The most marked change in crop acreage of Walla Walla County agriculture has been the expansion of vegetable farming since the early 1940's. The Census of Agriculture in 1920 recorded only 669 acres in vegetable crops in the county. By 1940, the vegetable acreage had increased to nearly 1,857 acres. The greatest change and expansion occurred after 1940. According to the Census of Agriculture in 1959, Walla Walla ranked twenty-fourth among all U. S. counties in vegetable acreage. In 1962, vegetables were harvested from well over 28,000 acres—about 15 times the 1940 acreage.

Vegetables follow grains in importance in value of sales off Walla Walla County farms. In 1959, vegetables sold amounted to over 13 percent of the value of all crops marketed and nearly 11 percent of all farm products sold. Vegetables were grown on about 7.5 percent of the county's croplands in 1959.

Table 19. All Vegetables, Green Peas (Processing) and Asparagus  
Acreage and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1954-1962

Year	All Vegetables 1/		Green Peas (Processing)		Asparagus	
	Harvested Acres	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Production (Tons)
1954	20,467	31,020	17,500	15,750	1,300	1,450
1955	20,425	38,170	16,900	11,830	1,500	1,750
1956	21,155	47,485	16,710	18,010	1,365	1,435
1957	23,325	46,860	19,210	17,950	1,400	1,400
1958	23,740	53,530	19,350	19,350	1,600	1,600
1959	22,360	63,110	17,500	24,500	1,670	1,670
1960	26,610	61,410	21,300	22,480	1,900	2,090
1961	31,050	60,040	26,000	24,700	1,800	1,800
1962	28,390	65,510	24,000	31,200	1,630	1,920

1/ Includes major commercial vegetables 10 or more acres.

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

By far the most important vegetable crop in terms of acreage in Walla Walla County is green peas grown for processing. In 1959, Walla Walla County, with 17,500 acres, ranked third in green pea acreage among all United States counties. Acreage has increased since then to 26,000 acres in 1961 and 24,000 acres in 1962. In 1962, Walla Walla was the leading county in the state in terms of green pea acreage, accounting for 32.6 percent of the state total. In production, the county ranked second to Skagit County. Most of the county's green peas are grown in the area between Waitsburg and the city of Walla Walla.

Asparagus is the second most important vegetable crop. Since 1958, the acreage of asparagus has increased to over 1,600 acres. In 1962, 1,630 acres of asparagus were grown in the county from which 1,920 tons were harvested. The 1962 production figure represented 8.3 percent of the state total and placed Walla Walla third among the 39 Washington counties in this respect. Asparagus is grown for both the fresh market and for processing. Main asparagus areas are in the Walla Walla River Valley and on the farmlands between Waitsburg and the city of Walla Walla.

Sweet corn is a relatively important vegetable crop in the county. Over 1,000 acres have been planted in recent years. Since 1960, however, sweet corn acreage and production has fallen from 1,380 acres producing 5,120 tons to 800 acres producing 3,600 tons in 1962. Sweet corn is grown both for fresh market and for processing.

Walla Walla is the principal producing county for spinach in Washington. In 1962, the county produced 5,500 tons or 89 percent of the total state production. Both spring and fall spinach is grown, with the latter predominating. Harvested acreage of fall spinach has remained above 600 acres since 1959, reaching a high of 720 acres in 1961 and 630 acres in 1962. Spring spinach, on the other hand, dropped from over 200 acres maintained since 1959 to 70 acres in 1962.

Table 20. Vegetable Crops: Sweet Corn and Spinach  
Walla Walla County, 1954-1962

Year	Sweet Corn		Spinach (Early)		Spinach (Late)	
	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)
1954	75	155	105	650	390	2,900
1955	150	370	235	1,650	530	3,780
1956	1,200	4,800	260	1,700	575	4,660
1957	900	4,300	250	740	550	4,320
1958	850	4,000	170	930	570	4,570
1959	1,220	6,100	220	1,830	600	4,940
1960	1,380	5,120	230	1,900	640	5,420
1961	1,100	4,400	250	2,100	720	5,650
1962	800	3,600	70	600	630	4,900

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 21. Vegetable Crops: Onions, Carrots and Lettuce  
Walla Walla County, 1954-1962

Year	Onions		Carrots		Lettuce (Spring)		Lettuce (Fall)	
	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)
1954	425	8,000	325	7,350	100	850	200	1,150
1955	450	9,100	400	7,800	80	600	150	1,050
1956	340	6,100	450	9,000	80	500	125	850
1957	380	7,600	400	8,800	70	450	125	940
1958	550	13,150	390	8,200	80	600	120	720
1959	550	12,650	440	10,340	40	320	50	300
1960	450	10,350	540	13,000	40	240	60	360
1961	450	9,200	530	10,500	50	450	80	700
1962	550	12,100	510	9,900	60	400	80	500

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Walla Walla County is a major producer of dry onions in the state. It is the principal early summer onion producing area in Washington. Since 1958, the acreage devoted to this crop (both early and late summer) has ranged between 450 and 550 acres. According to the Census of Agriculture, Walla Walla ranked fiftieth in dry onions acreage harvested for sale among all United States counties in 1959. In 1962, the county ranked second in the state in acreage and production with 550 acres which produced 12,100 tons.

Walla Walla County also is the principal carrot production area in the state. Most of the carrots are grown for processing. Walla Walla farmers have annually planted over 500 acres of this vegetable since 1960. In 1962, the county's 550 acres produced 9,900 tons which represented 31 percent of the state production.

Vegetables grown on a small scale in Walla Walla County include lettuce, cabbage and tomatoes. In 1962, the lettuce acreage amounted to about 60 acres harvested before August first and 80 acres harvested after that date. Cabbage totaled

40 acres while tomatoes were harvested from 20 acres in the same year. In the past, minor acreages of cauliflower, snap beans, cantaloup, rhubarb, broccoli and cucumbers have been commercially grown in the county but recently these crops have not been planted in commercially important amounts.

Table 22. Vegetable Crops: Cabbage, Tomatoes and Cauliflower  
Walla Walla County, 1954-1962

Year	Cabbage		Tomatoes		Cauliflower	
	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)
1954	30	370	7	60	--	--
1955	20	200	--	--	--	--
1956	20	250	15	130	10	30
1957	20	220	15	120	5	20
1958	20	160	20	160	10	50
1959	30	240	20	140	10	50
1960	40	320	20	80	10	50
1961	40	360	30	180	--	--
1962	40	300	20	90	--	--

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 23. Vegetable Crops: Snap Beans, Cantaloup and Rhubarb  
Walla Walla County, 1954-1962

Year	Snap Beans		Cantaloup		Rhubarb	
	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)	Acres	Prod. (Tons)
1954	5	10	--	--	5	35
1955	5	10	--	--	5	30
1956	5	20	--	--	--	--
1957	--	--	--	--	--	--
1958	--	--	10	40	--	--
1959	10	30	--	--	--	--
1960	--	--	--	--	--	--
1961	--	--	--	--	--	--
1962	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

### Hay Crops

Hay forms the third major group of crops grown in Walla Walla County after grains and vegetables. In 1920, the hay crop in the county amounted to over 30,000 acres. Acreages devoted to hay declined greatly after 1935 mainly because of the decrease in the amount of small grain cut for hay. Between 1954 and 1959, however, land from which hay was cut increased from 11,680 to 15,186 acres.

Among the hay crops grown in Walla Walla County, alfalfa is the most important. In 1959, about 73 percent of the total land in hay was devoted to alfalfa

on 321 farms. In 1940, Walla Walla County farmers harvested alfalfa from nearly 14,000 acres. More recently, the acreage was reduced to around 8,800 acres in 1950 and 9,000 acres in 1962. In 1962, about 23,000 tons of alfalfa was cut in the county representing a yield of 2.6 tons per acre. According to the Census of Agriculture, approximately half of the total alfalfa crop in 1959 was sold off the farm. Most of the alfalfa is grown in the Walla Walla River Valley on irrigated land.

Table 24. Alfalfa Hay and Clover-Timothy Hay  
Acreage, Yield and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1949-1962

Year	Alfalfa Hay			Clover and Timothy Hay		
	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)
1949	9,600	3.4	32,600	140	1.7	240
1950	8,800	3.1	27,300	130	1.8	230
1951	8,700	4.2	36,700	110	2.3	250
1952	8,700	3.9	34,000	150	1.9	280
1953	8,800	3.9	34,500	110	2.5	280
1954	8,900	3.8	33,800	90	1.4	130
1955	9,800	4.2	41,000	100	2.2	220
1956	11,000	4.5	49,500	150	2.0	300
1957	12,800	3.5	44,800	140	1.6	220
1958	10,000	2.9	29,000	100	1.8	180
1959	11,200	2.8	31,400	180	2.0	360
1960	10,000	3.6	36,000	160	2.2	360
1961	9,500	3.0	28,100	200	2.2	440
1962	9,000	2.6	23,000	300	2.0	600

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Clover and timothy hay has been a minor crop in Walla Walla County. Acreages remained under 200 acres until 1961. In 1962, the land in clover-timothy was increased to 300 acres which yielded 600 tons. This hay is grown in the area around the city of Walla Walla.

The acreage of small grain cut for hay in the county has declined greatly since the 1930's. In recent years these grains--wheat, barley, oats and rye--cut for hay has amounted to about 2,000 acres annually. Grass silage, on the other hand, has continued to increase in importance in the county. The acreage in grass silage increased from only 13 in 1949 to 258 in 1954 and 427 in 1959. The amount of land from which other hay has been cut also has increased in recent years from 603 acres in 1954 to 1,602 acres in 1959.

#### Field Seed Crops

Field seed crops are an important specialty grown in Walla Walla County. In 1959, 62 farms reported having 4,612 acres in alfalfa from which 2,510,750 pounds of seed were harvested. This was about eight and one-half times the 294,601 pounds produced from 831 acres five years earlier in 1954 and represented about 33 percent of the state's production.

In 1959, wheatgrass seed amounting to 86,000 pounds was also harvested in the county from 437 acres on 5 farms. Other field seed crops in 1959 included 33 acres of red fescue seed, 30 acres of Merion bluegrass seed and 7 acres of red clover. Production during the year was as follows: 15,000 pounds of red fescue, 5,000 acres of Merion bluegrass and 2,000 pounds of red clover.

Other Field Crops: Sugar Beets, Potatoes and Corn

Sugar beets have become one of Walla Walla County's important cash crops in recent years. The acreage in sugar beets increased rapidly after 1945. In 1959, 99 Walla Walla farms reported having harvested 75,791 tons of sugar beets from 4,214 acres. The county ranked third in the state in sugar beets acreage in 1959 and fifty-first nationally. Sugar beet acreages are concentrated in the south-central part of the county between Touchet and the city of Walla Walla.

Table 25. Sugar Beets: Acreage, Yield and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1939-1959

Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)
1939	493	20.7	10,214
1944	700	10.5	7,315
1949	2,289	19.9	45,654
1954	4,252	18.4	78,064
1959	4,214	18.0	75,791

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture.

Table 26. Potatoes: Acreage, Yield and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1949-1962

Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (Tons Per Acre)	Production (Tons)
1949	150	6.8	1,025
1950	90	6.7	600
1951	35	7.1	250
1952	120	6.3	750
1953	110	5.0	550
1954	120	8.0	960
1955	250	5.6	1,400
1956	300	10.0	3,000
1957	260	7.8	2,040
1958	500	10.0	5,000
1959	530	10.4	5,510
1960	350	9.3	3,250
1961	310	9.0	2,790
1962	280	10.0	2,800

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Potatoes are a minor crop in Walla Walla County. Acreage and production has continued to decrease since 1959 when 5,510 tons were harvested from 530 acres. In 1962 the potato crop amounted to 2,800 tons from 280 acres. Also among the minor crops of the county is field corn. In 1962, only 30 acres were devoted to this crop which produced 2,610 bushels. Most of the corn is used as silage while the rest is harvested for grain.

Table 27. Field Corn: Acreage, Yield and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1949-1962

Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (Bu. per Acre)	Production (Bushels)
1949	50	58.8	2,940
1950	50	43.0	2,150
1951	80	46.0	3,680
1952	100	52.0	5,200
1953	80	49.0	3,920
1954	30	49.0	1,470
1955	50	54.0	2,700
1956	60	40.0	2,400
1957	80	60.0	4,800
1958	50	50.0	2,500
1959	70	62.0	4,300
1960	50	46.0	2,300
1961	50	90.0	4,500
1962	30	87.0	2,610

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

#### Annual Legumes: Dry Field and Seed Peas

Dry field and seed peas have declined greatly in importance in Walla Walla County since World War II. In 1944, 17,719,100 pounds of dry field and seed peas were harvested from 16,698 acres compared with 7,658,043 pounds from 4,234 acres in 1959. Acreage devoted to this crop is scattered throughout the irrigated sections of eastern Walla Walla County.

Table 28. Dry Peas: Acreage, Yield and Production  
Walla Walla County, 1944-1959

Year	Harvested Acres	Production (pounds)
1944	16,698	17,719,100
1949	3,629	2,006,996
1954	2,203	4,583,000
1959	4,234	7,658,043

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture

#### Berries, Fruit, Nuts and Grapes

Strawberries constitute the main berry crop grown in Walla Walla County. Acreage, however, has been going down in recent years. In 1959, 14 farms reported

approximately 130 acres from which 1,090,000 pounds of strawberries were harvested. By 1962, the land devoted to this crop was decreased to around 70 acres. Raspberries and blackberries are also grown on some farms in the county but on a very minor scale.

Once an important fruit area, especially in prunes, Walla Walla County's small annual fruit production is now primarily for local use. The general trend has been downward in the county since the severe 1955 freeze. In 1959, 42 farms reported a total of 106 acres of land in bearing and nonbearing fruit orchards, groves, vineyards and nut trees. Five years earlier in 1954, the corresponding figure was 464 acres. In 1959, 33 farms reported a total of 1,444 apple trees of bearing age--the most numerous of the tree fruits in the county. Small amounts of pears, peaches, cherries, plums, prunes, apricots, grapes, walnuts and filberts also are harvested each year.